

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Two sheets of drawings Figures 29-33, labeled "PRIOR ART".

Attachment: 2 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Dealing with preliminary matters first, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to priority and receipt of the priority document. Further, it is noted with appreciation that the Examiner considered the Information Disclosure Statements filed on May 1, 2006 and February 15, 2008.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner because in lines 8-9 "and a circulating member of resin..." is duplicated in lines 15-16. Applicant has amended the Abstract to remove this redundant statement.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because Figures 29-33 should be labeled as "PRIOR ART". Applicant has amended these figures to indicate "PRIOR ART".

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application. Of these claims, claims 1-4 and 7 are currently pending and have been examined and claims 5, 6 and 8 and 9 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ebina, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,089,117A). For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Ebina, et al. does not teach or suggest making the shape of the holding member so that it substantially covers a main body of the circulation member including the bending portions thereof, as now recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is novel over this reference.

Furthermore, by covering the area including the bending portions with the holding member, noise generated by the rolling elements colliding with inner wall of the bending portion can be effectively suppressed. Also, according to the invention, a drawing process is employed in order to manufacture the holding member with the necessary shape to cover the noisy area easily.

Furthermore, as discussed briefly above, due to the shape of the holding member, when the rolling element which moves with high speed passes through the bending portions, the rolling element collides with the inner wall of the circulation member to generate noise. The holding member effectively suppresses this noise and thus, a ball screw device with low noise can be provided.

Further, even if the rolling element collides with each other at the bending portion and the rolling element attempts to separate matching surfaces of the circulation member from each other, the claimed holding member can effectively suppress this separation phenomenon.

It is submitted that Ebina, et al. does not teach or suggest these aspects of the invention recited in claim 1. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebina, et al. in view of Rohlinger (U.S. Patent No. 5,373,755A). Claim 4 is allowable by virtue of its dependency from claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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